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**Decree No. (33) of 2000 ratifying the Convention to Establish a Joint Higher Committee for Cooperation between the State of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Emir of the State of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution;

And the Convention to Establish a Joint Higher Committee for Cooperation between the State of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, signed in Manama on 39 Dhul-Hijjah 1420 A.H., corresponding to 4 April 2000;  And upon the submission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers;

**Hereby Decree the following:**

**Article One**

The Convention to Establish a Joint Higher Committee for Cooperation between the State of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, signed in Manama on 39 Dhul-Hijjah 1420 A.H., corresponding to 4 April 2000, and attached to this Decree, has been ratified.

**Article Two**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs shall implement provisions this Decree, and it shall come into force from the date of its public in the Official Gazette.

**Emir of the State of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 13 Jumada al-Akhir 1421 A.H.

Corresponding to: 11 September 2000

**Convention to Establish a Joint Higher Committee for Cooperation between the State of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates**

The Government of the State of Bahrain and the Government of the United Arab Emirates,

Believing in the deep historical ties, strong kinship connections, and close fraternal relations existing between their two brotherly countries and peoples,

With the desire of both countries to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in all fields for the benefit of their peoples,

In confirmation of the two countries’ commitment to the Charter of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the Charter of the League of Arab States, the Charter of the United Nations, and regional and international charters that call for closer cooperation and fraternal and friendly relations between countries, and being aware of the political and economic changes that the world is witnessing and the importance of consultation on various regional and international issues,

Have agreed as follows:

**Article One**

Establishing a joint higher committee for cooperation between the two countries, headed by the foreign ministers of both countries, and with the membership of a number of competent ministers.

**Article Two**

The tasks of the Joint Higher Committee include establishing the necessary legal foundations and frameworks with the aim of developing cooperation in various fields, especially in the following:

A- Reaching the highest level of political cooperation and coordination on all issues of common interest.

B- Strengthening diplomatic and consular cooperation in relation to the two countries’ relations with other countries.

C- Strengthening security cooperation and exchanging information in a way that consolidates the common security of each of them.

D- Developing military cooperation between the two countries, including exchanging experiences, training programmes, and conducting joint manoeuvres.

E- Reaching the highest level of cooperation in the economic and commercial fields and establishing joint investment projects.

F- Achieving freedom of movement for citizens of both countries using the ID card at land, sea, and air border crossings in accordance with rules agreed upon by the two countries.

G- Supporting cooperation in the fields of education, training, employment, social development, media, culture, sports, environmental affairs, and other areas of cooperation agreed upon by the two countries.

**Article Three**

The Higher Committee sets the general policy for cooperation and coordination between the two countries in the political, economic, commercial, security, military, and other fields required by the interests of the two countries.

**Article Four**

The Higher Committee is responsible for following up on the implementation of agreements, treaties, protocols, and executive programmes for cooperation signed between the two countries.

**Article Five**

The Higher Committee holds an annual meeting at the ministerial level, alternately, in the capitals of the two countries. This is preceded by preparatory meetings at the level of senior officials and experts. It may hold extraordinary meetings whenever the need arises, and the Committee may invite to attend its meetings representatives of the chambers of commerce and industry and businessmen in both countries. The dates of these meetings are determined through diplomatic channels.

**Article Six**

The Joint Higher Committee may form specialised subcommittees to research various areas of joint cooperation between the two countries, and the minutes of the subcommittee’s meetings are subject to the approval of the Joint Higher Committee.

**Article Seven**

The two Cooperation Council departments in the foreign ministries of the two countries will be the bodies concerned with coordination, follow-up, and preparation of the meetings of the Joint Higher Committee and its subcommittees.

**Article Eight**

This Convention shall enter into force from the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification and after the completion of the constitutional procedures in accordance with the legal system followed in both countries, and shall apply for an indefinite period unless one of the Parties notifies the other Party in writing of its intention to terminate this Convention, and termination shall take effect after the lapse of six months from the date of this notification.

Either country may propose an amendment to this Convention, and this amendment will become effective after the two countries agree on it using the same procedures referred to above.

This Convention was signed in the city of Manama on the twenty-ninth of Dhul-Hijjah 1420 A.H, corresponding to the fourth of April 2000, in two original copies in the Arabic language, which are equally authentic.

**On behalf of The Government of the State of Bahrain**

**On behalf of  The Government of the United Arab Emirates**

**Mohammed bin Mubark Al Khalifa Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**Minister of State for Foreign Affairs**